

PATENT NON-FINAL

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/098,614 Confirmation No. 3676

Applicant :

Tadahiro HIRAMOTO et al.

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Examiner : H. G. Klemanski

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 TO THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 9, 2003

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 9, 2004

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 9, 2003.

Please amend the application as directed below and consider the remarks that follow.